1.   (currently amended) A method for fulfilling a file-sharing query, comprising:

allocating bandwidth to a file-sharing user at a first level, wherein the first level is based upon a number of files the file-sharing user has to share;

transmitting a client-side application to ~~a~~ the file-sharing user having a shared ~~title~~ file, the client-side application for generating metadata corresponding to the shared file;

receiving and storing the metadata from the file-sharing user~~, bandwidth being allocated to the file-sharing user at a first level~~;

providing a user interface (UI) to a querying user, the UI for entering a query to a metadata repository;

receiving a query from the querying user via the UI, the shared file satisfying the query based on the stored metadata; and

transmitting an identification of the shared file to the querying user, wherein bandwidth is allocated to the querying user at a second level lower than a first level.

2.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

periodically receiving and storing updated metadata from the client-side application.

3.   (original) The method of claim 1, said client-side application generating the metadata using an abstracting program.

4.   (original) The method of claim 1, said UI comprising a proprietary UI of the metadata repository.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, said transmitting an identification further comprising: transmitting a hyperlink to the querying user in response to the query, wherein a selection of the hyperlink by the querying user initiates a transmission of the shared file from the me-sharing user to the querying user.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing the shared file locally based on a characteristic of the shared file.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, said transmitting an identification further comprising:

transmitting a hyperlink to the querying user in response to the query, wherein a selection of the hyperlink by the querying user initiates a transmission of the shared file from the metadata repository to the querying user.

8. (original) The method of claim 6, the characteristic comprising a threshold popularity of the shared file.

9. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the metadata is transmitted to at least one other metadata repository for storage and the shared file is not transmitted to any other metadata repository for storage.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving updated metadata for storage; and

transmitting the updated metadata to at least one other associated metadata repository to facilitate queries directed to the at least one other associated metadata repository.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, said transmitting the updated metadata further comprising:

transmitting the updated metadata in a parallel, pairwise protocol with the at least one other metadata repository.

12.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

periodically receiving updated metadata from a second metadata repository.

13.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a payment to the file-sharing user for the shared file transmitted to the querying

user.

14.   (original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

receiving a payment from the querying user for the shared file.

15.   (currently amended) A method for facilitating file-sharing queries, comprising:

receiving metadata files from a plurality of file-sharing users, the metadata files

corresponding to shared files, wherein bandwidth is allocated to the file-sharing users at a first

level and the first level depends upon a number of files the file-sharing users have to share;

storing the metadata locally at a first metadata repository to facilitate search queries from

querying users received by the first metadata repository, wherein bandwidth is allocated to

querying users at a second level;

uploading a shared file from a file-sharing user for local storage on a metadata repository

when a plurality of search requests for the shared file exceed a predetermined threshold; and

periodically synchronizing stored metadata with a second metadata repository for

facilitating queries from querying users received by the first and second metadata repositories.

16.   (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the queries received by the metadata

repository are not transmitted to the second metadata repository and queries received by the

second metadata repository are not transmitted to the first metadata repository.

17.   (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

transmitting a client-side application to a file-sharing user having the shared file, the client-side application for generating metadata corresponding to the shared file.

18.   (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

receiving a query from a querying user; and

transmitting an identification of a shared file satisfying the query to the querying user.

19.   (previously presented) A method for operating an asymmetric data sharing network, comprising:

establishing at least two classes of users that interact with a metadata repository over a network, the at least two classes including a sharing class that primarily provides data and a searching class that primarily searches for data and higher levels of network resources are allocated to the sharing class than allocated to the searching class;

receiving metadata identifying a shared file from a user in the sharing class; and

receiving a query from a user in the searching class, the metadata satisfying the query; and

providing an identification of the shared file to the user in the searching class.

20.   (original) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

uploading the shared file from the user in the sharing class for distribution to users in the searching class when the shared file satisfies a predetermined condition.